

and al Qaeda were planning aircraft hijacking and suicide attacks according to a new report that the Bush administration has been suppressing.

And this, from the front page of today's Washington Post: a newly leaked video recording the high-level government deliberation the day before Hurricane Katrina hit shows disaster officials emphatically warning President Bush that the storm posed a catastrophic threat to New Orleans and the gulf coast, and a grim-faced Bush personally assuring State leaders that his administration was fully prepared, quote-unquote, to help.

Do we see a pattern here? 9/11, Katrina? They knew something was going to happen and they did not act. They knew that if they went into Iraq that we were looking at a disaster, that there was no way we were going to be able to run that country.

They know that global climate change poses a threat to the entire planet. Nothing is being done. There is a pattern of recklessness, indifference, callousness. The implications are deadly for the people of the United States.

CHILDREN'S SAFETY ACT

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, last September the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 3132, the Children's Safety Act.

This bill will, among other things, overhaul and strengthen our Nation's sex offender registration and notification laws.

Over the past few years we have lost too many children to the hands of these pedophiles: Jessica Lunsford, Jetseta Gage, Sarah Lunde, Megan Kanka, Jacob Wetterling, just to name a few.

While it may not be on the national news, there are still stories every day of children being hurt by these predators.

We still have over 150,000 offenders missing, and those numbers are growing.

Mr. Speaker, the House did its job last fall by passing that bill. Now it is time for the other Chamber.

I applaud the Senate majority leader's recent decision to cosponsor the Senate version of the sex offender bill and his commitment that he made the other day to victims' parents to move the bill soon.

We must pass this bill, and we must do it now before another victim is killed.

IN SEARCH OF A COMPETENT CONSERVATIVE

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, by now we have all seen the Katrina tape of the President being briefed on the mag-

nitude of the upcoming hurricane disaster. The tape clearly shows that the President and his administration knew about Katrina's magnitude, regardless of their after-action denial.

All I can say is forget the compassionate conservative that we were promised in 2000. At this point I would settle for a competent conservative.

Remember, this administration repeatedly maintained that if American leaders in Iraq needed more troops all they needed to do was ask. But now we know that the President's top man in Iraq, Paul Bremer, asked for more troops right after the invasion and the President and the Secretary of Defense failed to respond.

This administration said that the intelligence it used as a case for the war was flawed. But Paul Pillar, a high-ranking CIA official, recently revealed that the administration intentionally distorted and cherry-picked the intelligence in order to justify the prescribed decision.

Today, we are seeing the failure of those decisions. This administration said that the Medicare prescription drug benefit would cost no more than \$400 billion. The real cost of the benefit, nearly \$800 billion, and the administration knew all along the true cost.

The President's people say people do not need to worry about security, and then we found out that neither the President nor the Secretary of Defense knew that the United Arab Emirates was about to take over the six major American ports. We do not need a compassionate conservative, a fiscal conservative. We need a competent conservative.

OUR ECONOMY IS ON A ROLL

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, if you get your news from the mainstream media, you probably don't know that our economy is on a roll.

Our tax policies, the tax relief and reform we passed in 2003 and 2005, helped get government out of the way of America's entrepreneurs, and our unemployment rate is now lower than it was in the 1970s, the 1980s, and the 1990s.

Those across the aisle who voted against our tax relief for Americans, and against our tax reform, say that Americans are not paying enough and that the tax relief costs the government too much. Imagine that. They think government has the first right of refusal on your paycheck. Well, they are wrong on that.

Our tax relief generated \$160 billion more in tax revenues in 2004 and 2005 than what was anticipated, than what was expected.

Mr. Speaker, the liberals in this body think that tax relief is a gift from the government to the American worker. They are wrong on that. We Repub-

licans know that they are wrong. We know taxes are a gift that the American taxpayer sends to Washington.

EDUCATION CUTS IN THE BUDGET

(Mr. OLVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, in his State of the Union speech, President Bush said: "Our greatest advantage in the world has always been our educated, hardworking, ambitious people, and we are going to keep that edge. But the President's budget for next year cuts education by more than \$2 billion. His budget freezes the maximum award for Pell grants for the third year in a row. That means Pell grants will be worth almost 10 percent less than they were just 5 years ago.

His budget cuts hundreds of millions of dollars from loan programs, making it more difficult for half a million low- and moderate-income students to get the financial aid they need to stay in college.

His budget totally eliminates funding for TRIO Upward Bound that helps students trying to be the first person from their family to go to college. Yet President Bush's budget adds over \$350 billion to the national debt that our children and grandchildren will have to pay.

Americans lose when the President's actions contradict his promises.

STATE OF THE UNION'S HEALTH CARE

(Mr. MURPHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, the rapidly rising cost of health care has put quality coverage out of the reach of millions of families. Too many cannot afford to see their doctor. Too many put off early treatment. Too many are overwhelmed by hospital bills. Too many meet a wall of bureaucracy that stands between them and their doctor. This system costs too many lives and too many dollars.

Each side of the aisle has offered solutions: national health care on one side of the aisle, health savings accounts on the other. But these two plans deal with payments. Neither solves the problem of costly errors and inefficiency. Cost shifting is not cost savings. They only focus on who is paying, when we need to reform what we are paying for.

Electronic medical records, electronic prescribing, eliminating hospital-borne infections, accurate dates on prescription drugs, expanding patients' care management, ending defensive medicine and allowing doctors to volunteer at community health centers are among the reforms our Nation needs.

Any of us would reach out to save the life of one person. We must reform the

health care system to save ten of thousands of lives and tens of billions of dollars. Members can see more information on this at www.murphy.house.gov.

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REPUBLICANS' FAILURES IN SECURING PORTS: FAILURES GO BEYOND DUBAI PORTS WORLD

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration's deal with the United Arab Emirates showed the American people again that securing our ports is not their priority.

The bipartisan and unanimous 9/11 Commission report clearly showed the need for increased security for our Nation's ports. Now 4 years after 9/11, less than 10 percent of the 9 million containers entering our ports are ever screened. Even worse, Republicans in this House have fought Democratic efforts to increase port security funding.

In 2003, this House voted to kill a Democratic amendment to add \$250 million for port security grants; then again, in 2005, against a Democratic proposal calling for an additional \$400 million in funding for port security.

For the record, let me say, my constituents in St. Louis, Jefferson County, and Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri, understand right from wrong. They, like all Americans, demand action from this Congress that is long overdue, and they will not go along with any deal compromising our national security.

The American people have every right to be outraged with the administration's approval of the UAE port deal. It is time the people's House make the security of our Nation's ports a priority.

HONORING GENERAL SAM HOUSTON

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Sam Houston from Virginia was born this day, March 2, 1793. He was unique among all Americans. He grew up in the mountains of eastern Tennessee. He befriended the Cherokees as a kid. He fought the British in 1814. He stood with Andrew Jackson and was wounded three times fighting Indians. He became a lawyer, Member of Congress, and a Governor of the great State of Tennessee. More than enough for one life. But then he left for Texas and quickly got passion about Texas independence.

On his birthday, March 2, 1836, he was one of the signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence from Mexico. General Sam was made commander in chief of all Texas armies, and on the plains of San Jacinto his outnumbered volunteer army defeated the invaders. Texas was free.

General Sam became President of the Republic of Texas, and when Texas joined the Union, he became Governor and U.S. Senator. He is the only American in history to be Governor of two different States.

His example was a majestic story of bravery, boldness, and brashness.

Mr. Speaker, his last words before he died were "Texas, Texas, Texas." Sam Houston, the stuff real Americans and real Texans are made of. And, Mr. Speaker, that's just the way it is.

DEMOCRATS' EFFORTS TO ADDRESS PORT SECURITY

(Mr. CLEAVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, the United Arab Emirates port deal should never have been approved. Sure, the admission is now backpedaling, but despite this 45-day delay, the administration is still going to try to push this deal through.

It does not matter that the Coast Guard voiced concerns about the proposal before the administration initially approved the deal. It does not matter that large numbers of Democrats and Republicans have come out in opposition to the deal. It does not matter that the overwhelming majority of Americans do not support this deal and believe it to be dumb. Nor does it matter that the administration never checked with the affected communities before signing off on it. No, the Bush administration sees this 45-day period as an opportunity to steamroll Congress.

We simply cannot allow that to happen. Congress must play an active role in this decision. I hope, I really hope, that the House Republicans will join us in insisting that no deal move forward without a vote here on this floor. Democrats insist that in addition to the 45-day investigation there must also be a congressional vote. This is a national security decision, and it is simply too important for partisanship to take precedence over prudence.

IMMIGRATION BILL IN SENATE AND CAMPBELL AMENDMENT

(Mr. CAMPBELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Mr. Speaker, today the Senate Judiciary Committee will begin work on the immigration and border security legislation the House passed at the end of last year.

This bill is one of the most important pieces of national security legislation before Congress because border security is national security.

Recently we have been engaged in debates, some of which you have just heard, about whether or not our ports are secure. This is an important debate. But we know our southern border is not secure; we know that illegal

aliens, criminal illegal aliens, are attempting to cross that border every single day, and it is time that we stop it.

In December, the House passed a good enforcement and border security bill, and the bill is a great start to address this problem and make our Nation safer. One important provision included in the bill was an amendment I had authored which will withhold Federal law enforcement funding from sanctuary cities that prohibit law enforcement officers from notifying Federal officials about known illegal aliens.

The practice of prohibiting cooperation is appalling. We should not reward these cities with Federal funds. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to include this provision and pass a strong enforcement bill without amnesty.

BUSH ONCE AGAIN SKIRTING LAW IMPACTING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, Congress should not allow the secretly decided backroom United Arab Emirates port deal to go through. It must be stopped, and House Republicans should stand up to the President in the name of national security. Our ports are not for sale to the highest bidder.

This deal shows once again the lengths the Bush administration will go to bend the laws to their advantage. The administration failed to conduct a 45-day investigation that is legally required. This, in itself, should be enough to stop this deal. The national security implications are simply too important to ignore. And, unfortunately, House Republicans have neglected our vulnerable ports since 9/11.

Over the past 4 years, House Republicans have opposed and defeated Democratic efforts to increase funding for port security. Right now, only 6 percent of cargo coming into the U.S. is being checked, producing a large hole in our homeland security.

I would hope that we can make port security a top priority.

ENTITLEMENT REFORM

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in the coming days we will take up the Federal budget. While I am pleased to see the President's budget hold the line on discretionary spending, the Congress should also get serious about entitlement reform.

The numbers speak for themselves, Mr. Speaker. Three entitlement programs alone, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, currently consume about 42 percent of the entire budget. If we add defense and homeland security,